

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1-3. (Canceled)

4. (Presently Amended) A vessel according to claim **4-14** wherein each of said supports is **substantially spherical in shape and is** substantially solid.

5. (Original) A vessel according to claim 4 wherein each said support comprises a ball fabricated from a first material selected from the group consisting of a metal, rubber, a ceramic and a polymer.

6. (Original) A vessel according to claim 5 wherein said first material comprises stainless steel.

7. (Original) A vessel according to claim 6 wherein each connector is fabricated from a second material selected from the group consisting of metals, textiles, ceramics and polymers.

8. (Original) A vessel according to claim 7, wherein said second material comprises stainless steel, and wherein each of said connectors comprises a flexible chain fabricated therefrom.

9. (Original) A vessel according to claim 8 wherein each of said supports carries a projecting eyelet, and each said eyelet is coupled to the chain link at the proximal end of a respective one of said connectors.

10. (Original) A vessel according to claim 9 wherein the connectors are joined to one another at the chain link at the distal end of each chain.

11. (Original) A vessel according to claim 10 wherein said basin component is fabricated from a third material selected from the group consisting of glass, metals, ceramics plastics, resins, rubbers, textiles and wood fibers.

12. (Original) A vessel according to claim 11 wherein said third material is glass.

13. (Original) A vessel according to claim 12 wherein said base component comprises three supports and three connectors.

14. (New) A vessel for containing, displaying or serving foodstuffs and the like, said vessel comprising a base component and a basin component adapted to be upheld by the base component, said base component comprising at least three supports and at least three connectors, each of said supports being substantially spherical in shape,

each said connector having a proximal end and a distal end, with each connector being attached at its proximal end to a respective support, said connectors being substantially equal in length and being joined to one another at their distal ends to form a junction, said junction being adapted to be positioned at the center of an imaginary circle having a radius that is substantially the same as the length of each connector, and said supports being adapted to be positioned at substantially equidistant points about the periphery of said imaginary circle, whereby the basin component may be rested upon and upheld by said supports.